

NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Carol A. Murray, Commissioner

For Immediate Release

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PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC MEETING ON TRUCK WEIGHT EXEMPTION STUDY
REPORT LOOKS AT IMPACT OF RESCINDING TURNPIKES WEIGHT EXEMPTION

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the Maine Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority, will hold a public meeting on June 3, 2004 in Portsmouth to present the findings of a study looking at the impacts of rescinding the current exemption allowing higher truck weight limits for five and six axle combination trucks on the New Hampshire and Maine Turnpikes.

The federally mandated, 55-page draft report looks at safety issues, impacts on bridges and pavement, and economic and social impacts. It concludes that rescinding the weight restrictions would cost the States of New Hampshire and Maine an additional \$3 million to \$4.1 million each year.

The study consultant, Wilbur Smith Associates, will present the study findings at two public meetings on Thursday June 3, 2004 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and Scarborough, Maine. The Portsmouth meeting will be held from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Portsmouth City Hall, 1 Junkins Avenue in Portsmouth, NH. It will follow a meeting held at the Scarborough Public Library from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

The final draft report can be found on the New Hampshire Department of Transportation website, <http://www.nhdot.com/>, and at the following link:

<http://www.nh.gov/dot/media/pdf/i95truckreport.pdf>

All written comments from the public must be submitted to the study consultant: Mark Berndt, Wilbur Smith Associates, 325 Cedar Street, Suite 700, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101; or e-mail to: mberndt@wilbursmith.com by Friday, June 10, 2004.